



Electronic Packaging Enabling the Future of Semiconductors

Dr. Pascal Oberndorff

Senior Director, Package Innovation

03 July 2025

| Public | NXP and the NXP logo are trademarks of NXP B.V. All other product or service names are the property of their respective owners. © 2024 NXP B.V.

The world has **changed...**

2000

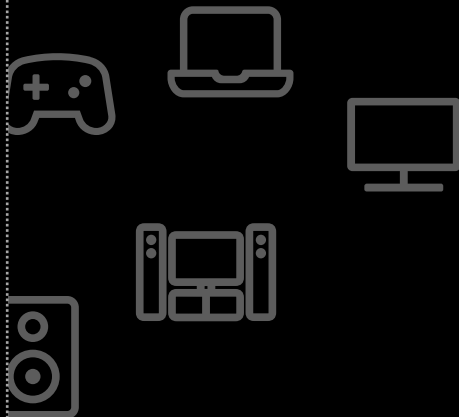
2010

2020

2030+

Analog world

Laptops
Desktops
Mobiles
Game consoles
Home audio & video



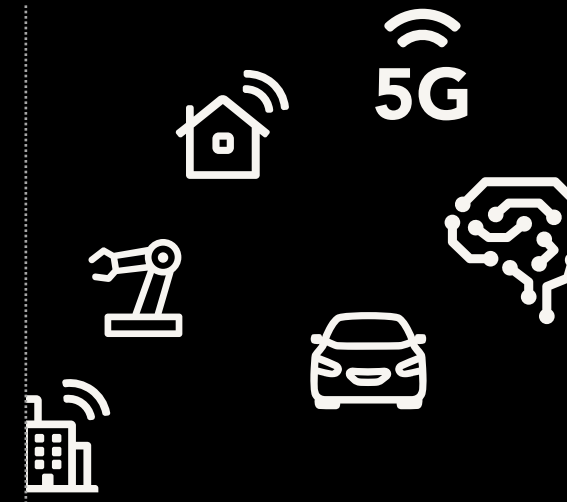
On-demand world

Smartphones
Tablets
Data-center servers



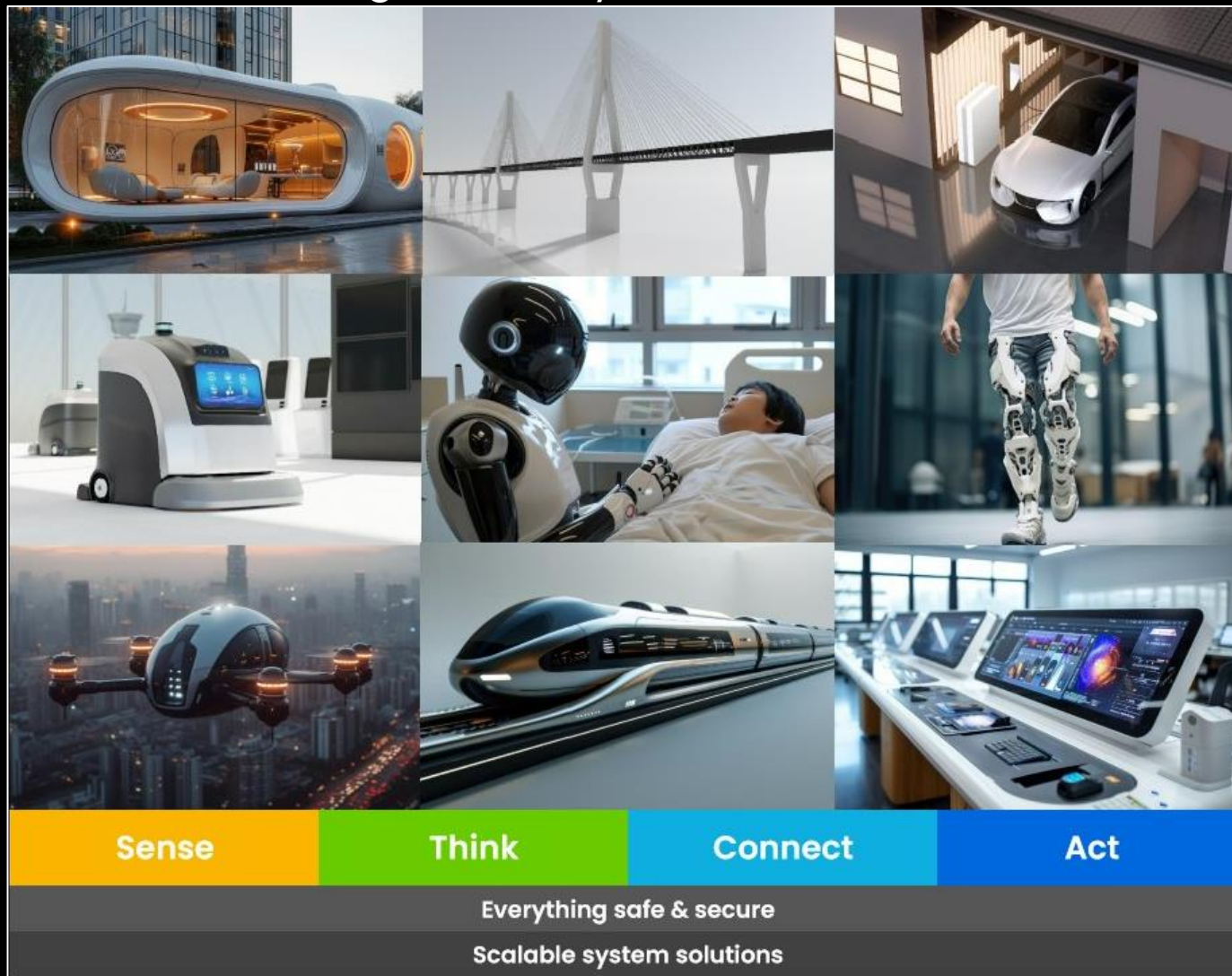
Robotics age

Artificial Intelligence from Cloud to Edge
Smart connected devices
Smart factories and homes
Smart connected cars

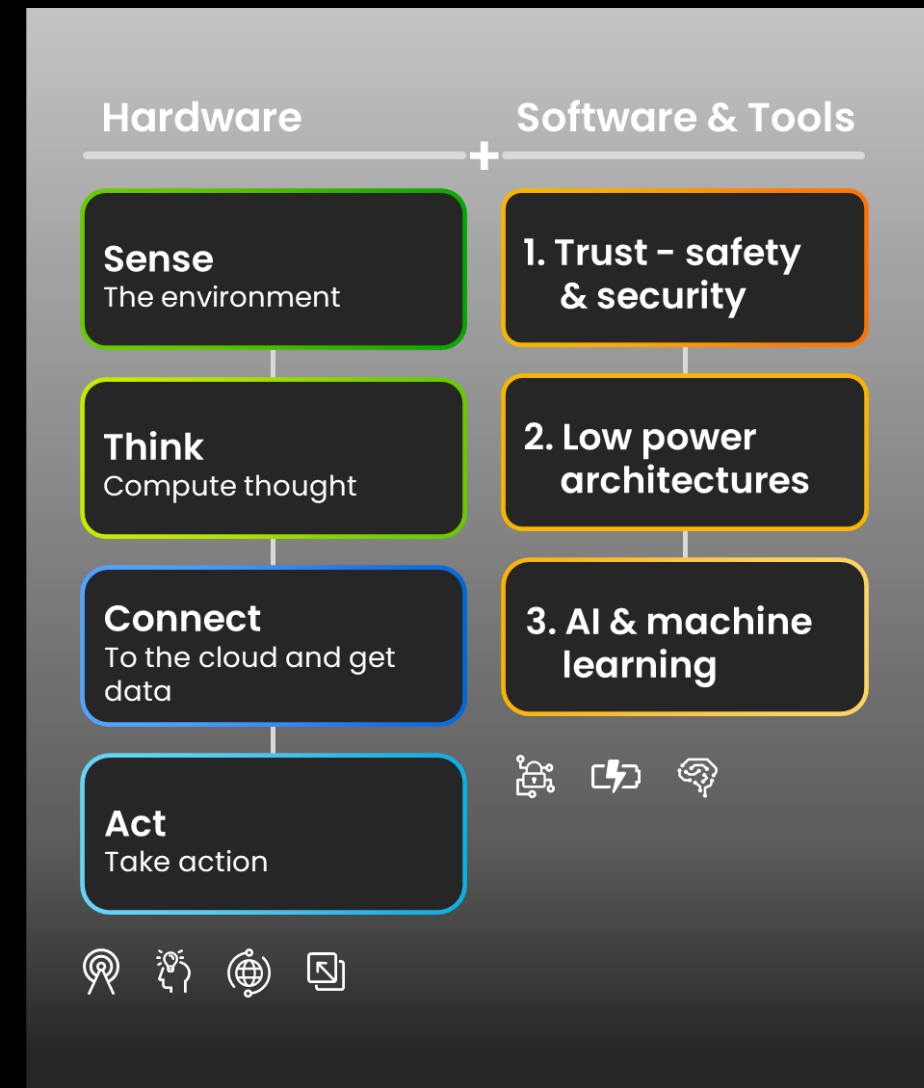


A world that **anticipates and automates** is upon us

Robots with AI agents everywhere



Let's build these systems



But what are
the implications
for **packaging**?

Heterogeneous integration

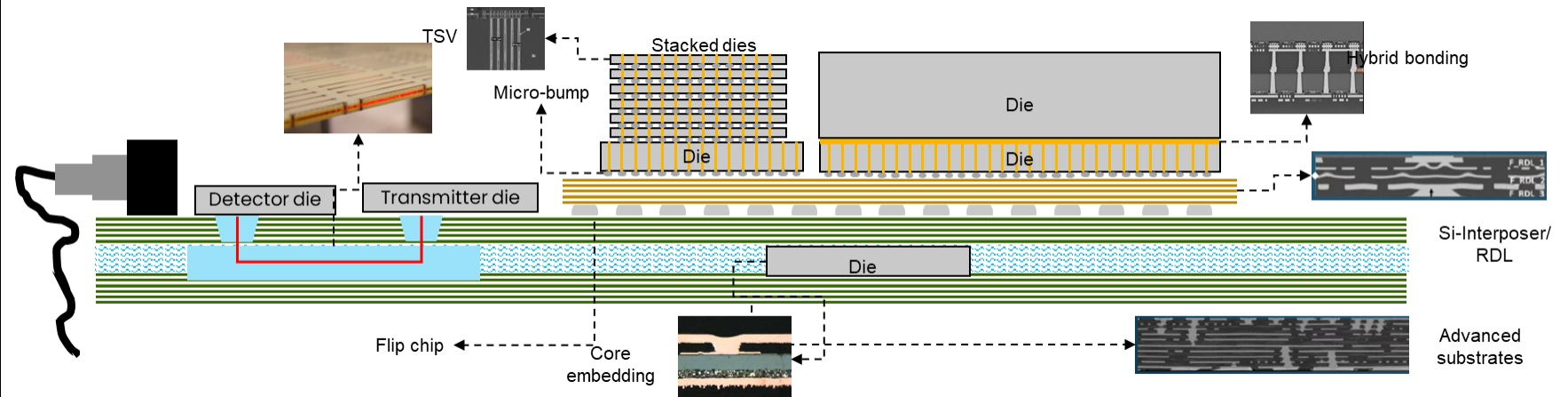
Key enabling technologies

- Advanced packaging using 2.5D (*interposer*) & 3D (*TSVs*)
- High density interconnects (μ bumps, hybrid bonding, fine pitch RDLs)
- Thermal interfaces & heat spreaders
- Multi technology integration (CMOS, SiGE, GaN, InP and PICs)
- Co-Design tools



Source: IEEE Heterogenous integration roadmap 2019, Chapter 1, page 4

- 2D scaling is slowing down and becoming more expensive!
- More and more (sub)system focus drives increased requirements for silicon and packaging.
- Making the right choice between the on silicon (single/ multiple) and in/on package is critical for cost effective solutions.



Cartoon inspiration: Applied materials on 2D and 3D interconnects ,Image
sources: **TSV**: Jeffrey P Gambino, Microelectronic Engineering, Vol 135, 5March ., pg: 73-106 (IBM research), **Hybrid bonding**: BESI Austria

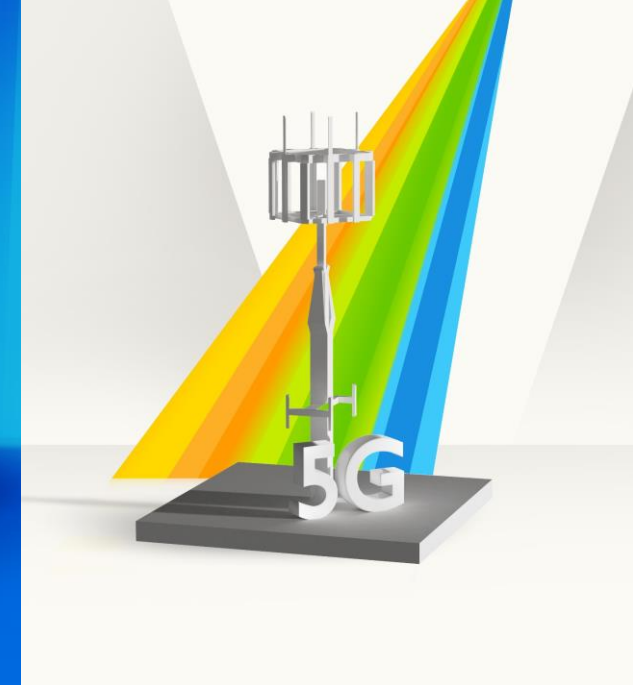
Applications

Challenges in heterogeneous integration for analog and mixed signal devices.

Millimeter wave

Automotive radar

Communication infrastructure



NXP have active in the field of **analog and mixed signal** semiconductor components

Analog Front Ends (AFEs)

High-Speed Multiplexers and Switches

Voltage Level Translators

Comparators and Analog Switches

Real-Time Clocks (RTCs)

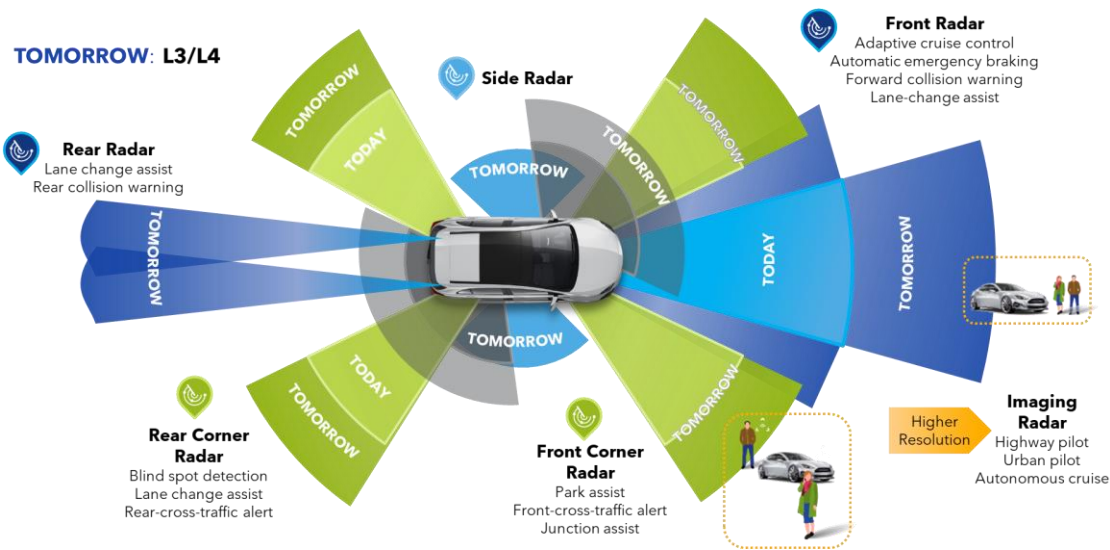
Wireless and Connectivity

Automotive Mixed-Signal Solutions

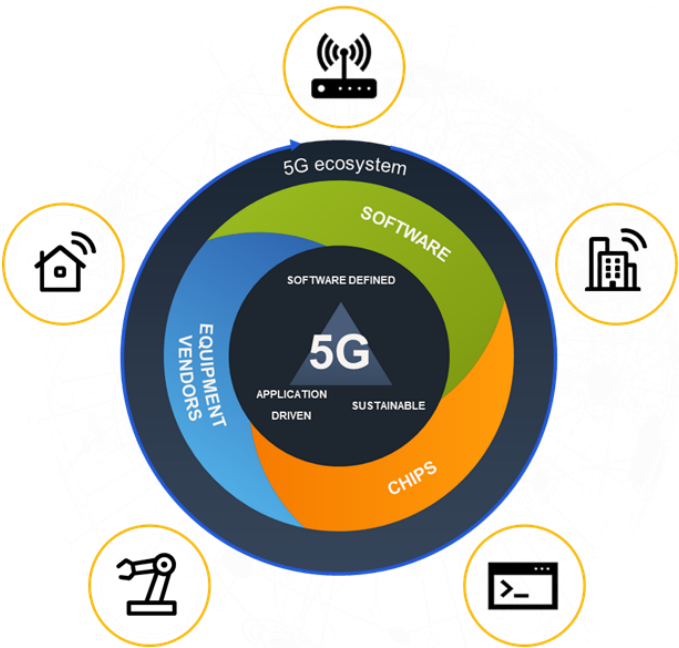
Heterogeneous integration challenges

Millimeter wave applications

Automotive radar



Communication infrastructure



Functional Driver	Automotive Radar	Communication infrastructure
Performance	High resolution and accuracy for object detection	High throughput and low latency for communication
Size	Compact form factor for integration into vehicles	Compact size for deployment in urban environments
Power Efficiency	Low power consumption for battery-operated systems	High power efficiency to reduce operational costs
Integration Complexity	Moderate complexity (RF, analog, digital integration)	High complexity (multiple RF channels, digital processing)
Thermal Management	Effective heat dissipation to maintain performance	Advanced thermal management for high-power RF components
Cost	Cost-effective solutions for mass production	Cost-effective solutions for large-scale deployment

Integration: Radar system-on-chip



Sense
Everything aware

Automotive FMCW radar

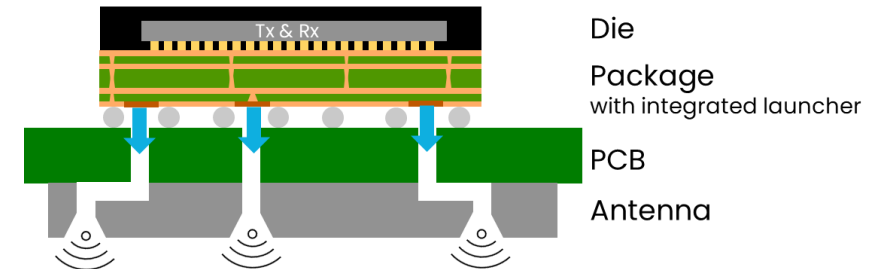
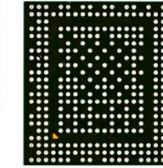
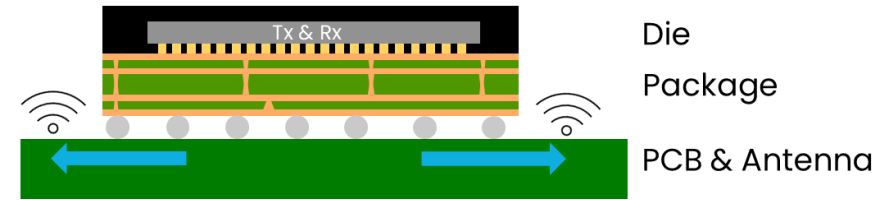
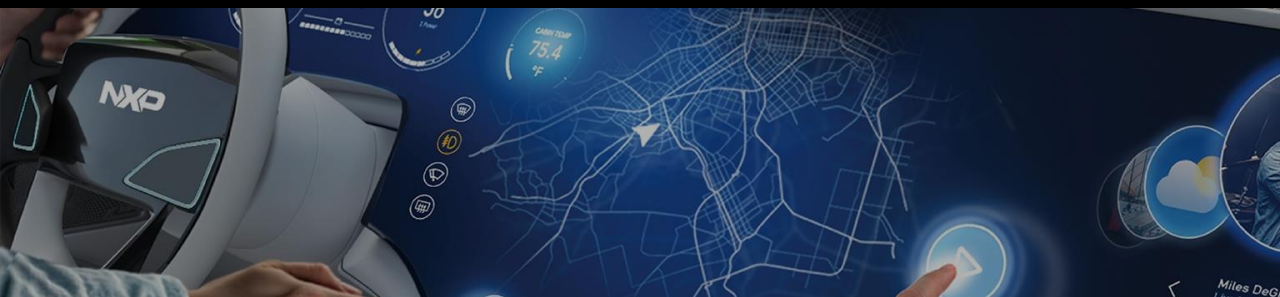
- 4 Tx, 4 Rx, ADC conversion, phase rotator, low-phase-noise VCO



Think
Everything smart

32-bit microprocessor

- High-performance radar processing with integrated Vector DSP



Integration: Radar system-on-chip

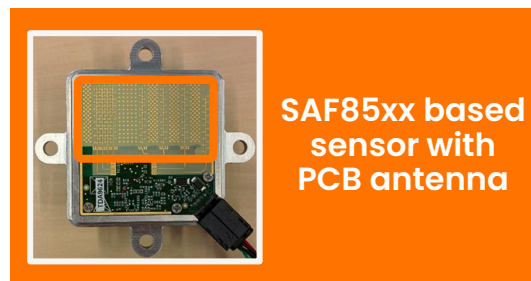


Sense
Everything aware

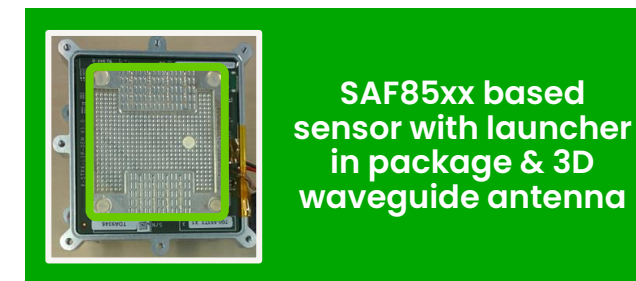
Vehicle autonomy is limited by how far & how clearly we can see

Improving detection requires integration

- Signal transfer, launch, receive



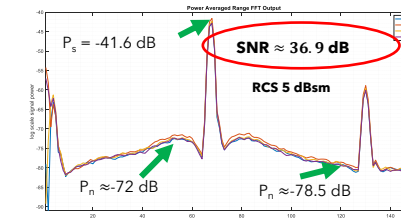
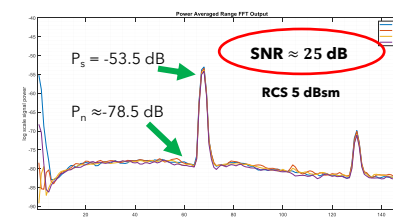
SAF85xx based sensor with PCB antenna



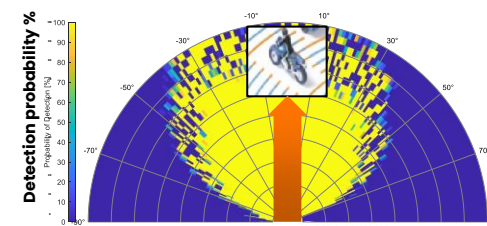
SAF85xx based sensor with launcher in package & 3D waveguide antenna

~12dB signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) improvement

= 8 .. 9dB routing & coupling losses delta + 3dB antenna directivity difference

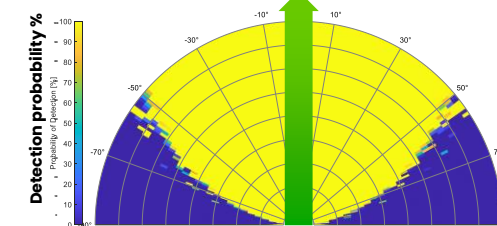


RCS 5 dBsm (motor cycle)



200m+ detection range with PCB antenna

RCS 5 dBsm (motor cycle)



Up to 400m detection range with launcher in package + 3D waveguide antenna

Integration: Active antenna amplifier system



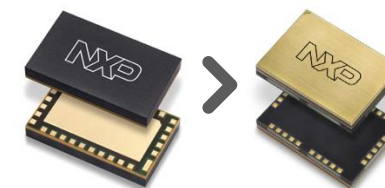
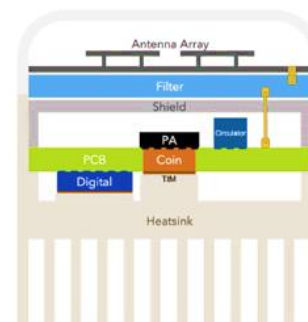
Act
Everything efficient

Multi-chip integration with embedded heat management

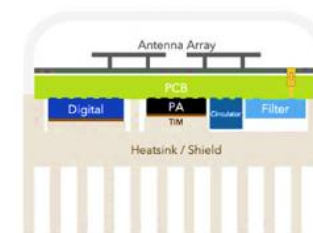
- Combines LDMOS and GaN analog semiconductors

5G radio: 32 transceivers; 200 W output power

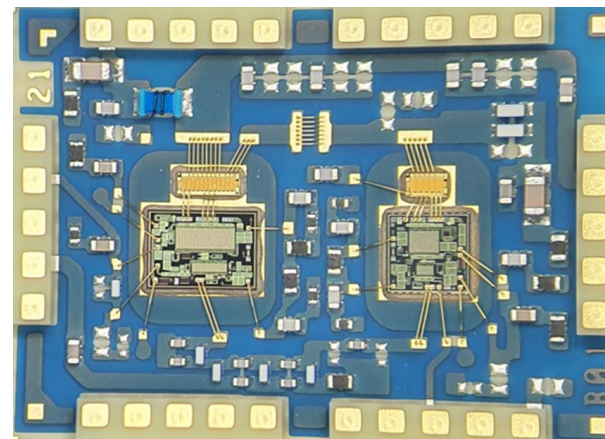
Conventional Radio



Thin MIMO Radio
Enabled by superior thermal path



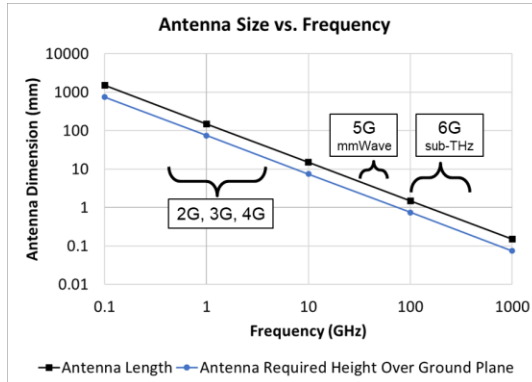
Enables passive cooling and ~40% weight reduction vs. earlier generation



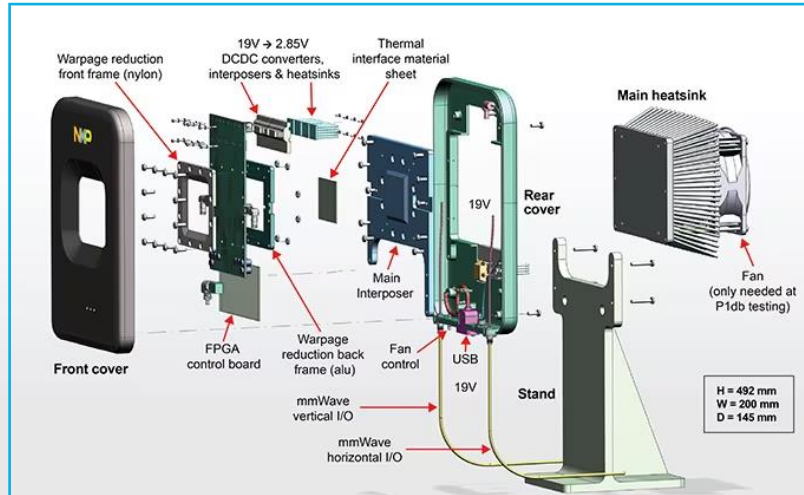
Courtesy: Ericsson

Addressing integration challenges

Antenna designs becomes critical

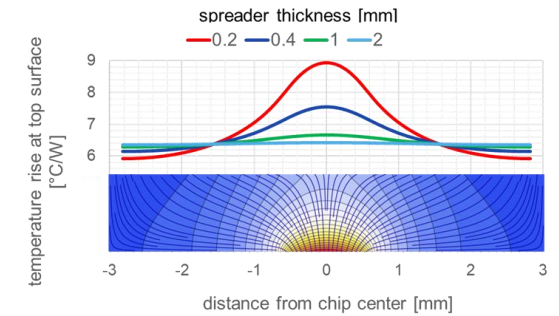


- **Antenna sizes scales with frequency**
- $\geq 6G$, antenna-in-package becomes feasible, enabling system miniaturization



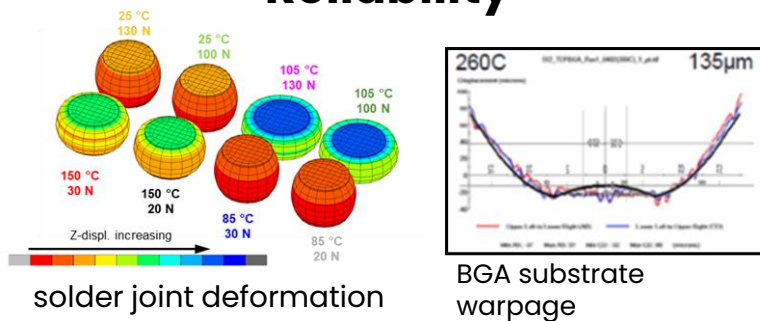
Exploded view of the NXP 5G mmWave antenna demo

Advanced Thermal Solutions



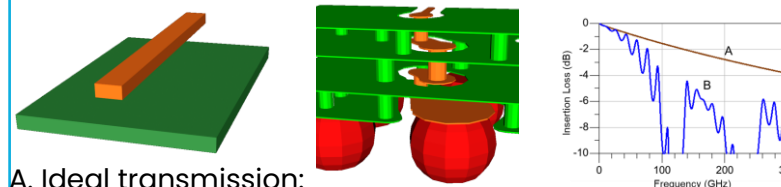
- **Co-design** of package and system thermal solutions is key.
- New interface materials and solutions needed

Reliability



- **Materials** characterization (thermoelastic/fatigue)
- **Modeling** stress and deformation (Influence of process induced variations)

Signal Integrity & Structures



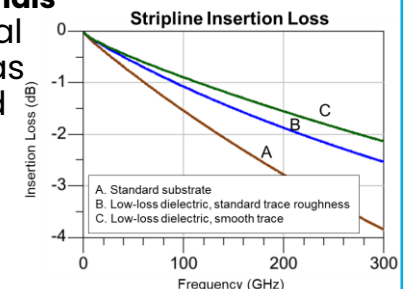
- **Traditional design have limitations** (Discrete vias, broken-reference planes, BGA structures)
- **Package-Chip co-design critical**
Intensive shielding, Minimizing transitions & discontinuities in signal path

Materials

Cu treatment	Untreated	CZ-8101	CZ-8201	01CZ (CZ-8401)	Flat BOND
X-section x3.5k					

Low-loss (low- D_f & D_k)

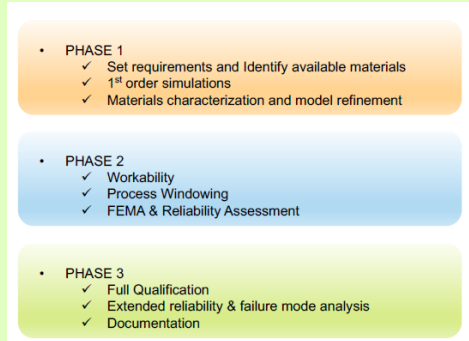
- dielectrics are critical
- **Need to enable new materials**
- Explore novel material combinations such as substrate-integrated waveguides
- Explore use of metamaterials



Material roadmap

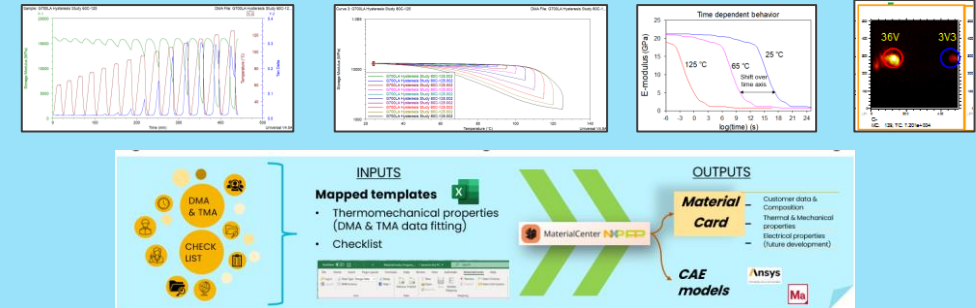
• Material development

- Comprehensive development procedure for all material classes (epoxy molding compounds, die attach, Substrates, solderballs, leadframes)



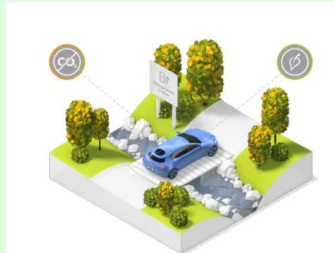
• Material characterization

- Exhaustive techniques to perform materials characterization (thermo-mechanical, physical, chemical)
- Database to standardize input for thermos mechanical simulations



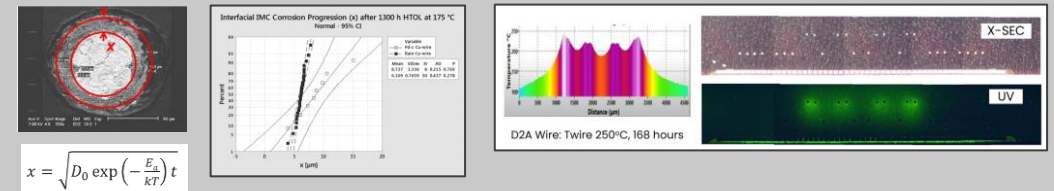
• Sustainability considerations

- Follow regulations (e.g., REACH) and make all material compliant
- Prepare for new items like PFAS
 - strategy to address short term needs
 - new materials PFAS-compliant
- Work on sustainable package technologies (reduction of CO₂ footprint), including circularity by collaboration with suppliers and institutes



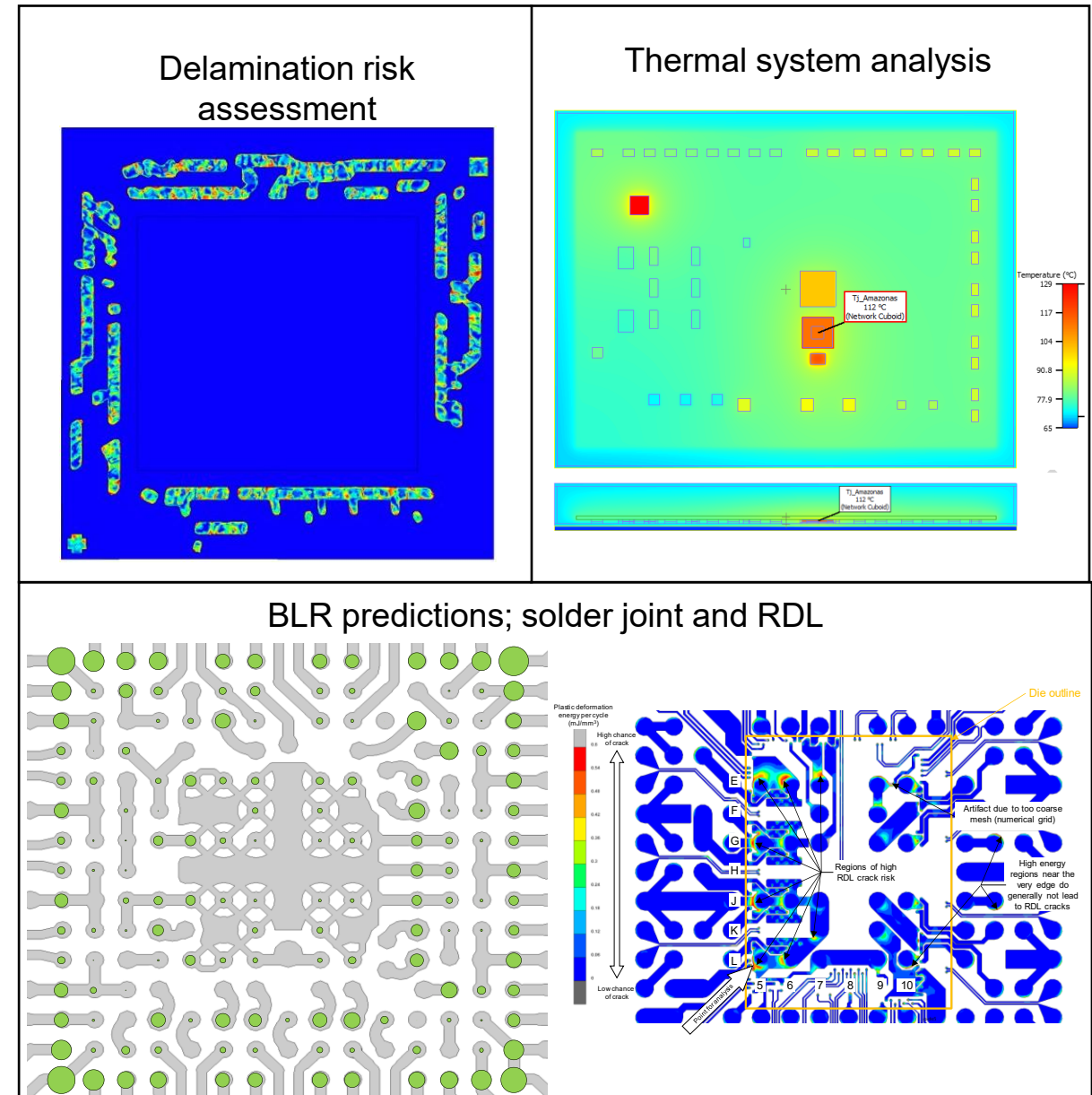
• Materials and reliability

- Design materials to meet steadily increasing requirements:
 - Include a robustness margin
 - Mission profile assessments
- Enable extended mission profiles/extreme environment applications



Mechanical & Thermal simulation: reducing empiricism & accelerating NPI/NTI

- Simulation models build using:
 - Package platform knowledge
 - Deep understanding of materials
 - Knowledge of physics of failure/degradation
- Enabling:
 - NPI design screening and BoM preselection
 - Assembly manufacturing process development
 - Customer system analysis; full analysis or support with models
 - CQC support for root cause hypothesis checking, containment selection and support of risk assessments



Summary



Heterogeneous integration in packaging is essential to fuel growth



Challenges in integration, such as power and thermal needs to be addressed. Co-design, thorough understanding of materials and modeling needed



A diverse range of packages at the right cost point is needed.



**The future
is bright.**





Brighter
Together

[nxp.com](https://www.nxp.com)

| Public | NXP and the NXP logo are trademarks of NXP B.V. All other product or service names are the property of their respective owners. © 2024 NXP B.V.